

Thermal Weapons Sight (TWS)

Description

The TWS is a lightweight, low-power, high- performance Forward Looking Infra-Red device. The TWS will augment existing crew-served night vision sights. It does not rely on visible light for operation, and is virtually unaffected by weather and obscurants (both natural and man made). The TWS operates by discerning the temperature variation between targets and their background. The TWS is completely passive and, although designed for target detection and engagement with Marine Corps crew served weapons, can be used to aid surveillance and detection.

The Medium TWS will be able to view personnel from 1,100 meters in clear air and 500 meters in obscured air and will weigh five pounds or less. The Heavy TWS will be able to view personnel from 2,200 meters in clear air and 500 meters in obscured air and will weigh six pounds or less. The TWS will be able to be mount on the MIL-STD 1913 Accessory Mounting Rail and the operator will be able to boresight to the weapon.

Operational Impact

The 24-hour capability of the Thermal Weapon Sight will significantly enhance the Marine Corps day and night fighting capability through improved target detection and engagement. The system can “see” through obscurants, which impair sighting systems operating in the visible and near visible spectrum. The TWS has the ability to acquire targets under most atmospheric conditions, at ranges comparable to the maximum effective ranges of the weapons with which it is employed.

Program Status

The U.S. Army, as the lead service, has reached a Milestone III for the Low Rate Initial Production and Bridge configured TWS and has awarded an OMNIBUS production contract for the manufacture of the TWS and Driver’s Vision Enhancer (DVE). A Marine Corps Acquisition Decision Memorandum is expected in FY01.

Procurement Profile: FY01 FY02

Quantity: 0 0

Developer/Manufacturer

Raytheon Systems Company

